

REVIEWS

SYPHILIS AND PUBLIC HEALTH. By EDWARD B. VEDDER, A.M., M.D., Lieutenant-Colonel, United States Army. Pp. 314. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger, 1918.

THE author of this book has compiled the important features of syphilis in its relation to the public health, both from the military and civil standpoint, in the United States.

In view of the great prevalence of the disease and its almost complete lack of sanitary control in civil communities, this book, appearing from the pen of a well-recognized military authority at a critical time in the nation's history, is particularly pertinent, and because of the completeness and conclusiveness of the statistics furnished should command the serious thought and consideration of all physicians, laymen, legislators and public health officials. The morbidity and mortality of syphilis, as attested by life insurance companies and syphilologists generally, is accorded detailed description. The book contains four chapters devoted to the prevalence of syphilis, the sources of infection and methods of transmission, personal prophylaxis and public health measures. In the appendix the technic of the Wassermann reaction is described, and the critic feels it his duty to take certain exceptions; notably to the employment of double units of complement and amboceptor, reliance exclusively upon the use of cholesterinized antigen and the employment of amboceptor "papers" instead of the properly preserved liquid. As a whole the work contains much interesting, valuable and indispensable knowledge and is destined to occupy a foremost place among the best contributions to this much neglected and timely sanitary problem.

B. A. T.

SCOPOLAMIN-MORPHIN SEMINARCOSIS DURING LABOR. By WILLIAM OSBORNE GREENWOOD, M.D. (LEEDS), B.S. (LOND.). Pp. 115. London: Oxford University Press, 1918.

THIS brochure is a monograph which is intended to show that the suffering during labor is reduced by means of the use of scopolamin-morphin seminarcosis, while the risks vanish to a negligible

quantity when reasonable care is used. The author has had quite an experience with this method of conducting labor, and in order to properly answer all the queries that have been directed to him, he deemed it best to present the available literature, together with his own personal beliefs and experiences, in this little volume.

Throughout the work the author is careful to discriminate between amnesia and analgesia, since the former state is the one desired in this work, while analgesia is unnecessary and represents, as a rule, an overdose of the narcotics. It is of interest to note that the author suggests that the birth-rate of England, which has fallen as a result of the war, might be considerably increased if the women could be assured that labor can be made practically painless by the application of this technic. The book is well written and amply fulfils the purpose for which it was intended.

F. B. B.

MILITARY SURGERY. By DUNLAP PEARCE PENHALLOW, M. R. C., U. S. A.; Chief Surgeon, American Women's War Hospital. Second edition. Pp. 519; 225 illustrations. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton, 1918.

MANY books intended to cover the needs of the beginner in war surgery published since this war began have been new editions of works in use before the war which have been changed in varying degree to meet the new conditions. This applies particularly to the operative surgeries. Penhallow has devoted himself entirely to military surgery as it has been developed by this war, and particularly as it has developed in his own hands from a wide personal experience. The great difference between military and civil practice makes necessary attention to detail in connection with the more severe varieties of war wounds, the character of the missiles producing them, the difficulties of transportation and the severe infective and other complications which arise. In this second edition the chapter on treatment has been entirely revised and the methods brought up to date so far as possible. One chapter is devoted to a description, with many good illustrations, of the various missiles used in this war, including the various kinds of shells, shrapnel, grenades, bombs and mines. There are also numerous illustrations of wounds produced by these missiles and their fragments. The advances made in the treatment of infected wounds are given prominence, while the greatest part of the book is given up to a systematic discussion of the wounds of the various parts and tissues of the body, case reports being made use of very

frequently. Its chief virtue is in the intimate touch it affords with the actual conditions in the surgery of the present war. In this way it must be of much value to the surgeon about to enter this field.

T. T. T.

A TEXT-BOOK ON GONORRHEA AND ITS COMPLICATIONS. By GEORGES LUYs, late Assistant to the Urological Clinique, Hôpital Lariboisière, Paris. Translated and edited by ARTHUR FOENSTER, late Resident Medical Officer, London Lock Hospital. Second revised edition. Pp. 386; 201 illustrations and 3 colored plates. New York: William Wood & Co.

This work ranks as one of the very best if not the foremost on the subject of gonorrhea and its complications. From a prolonged experience the author has learned the absolute efficiency of certain remedies over others that for generations have been routinely described in text-books and possessed comparatively little or no value. He therefore has avoided enumeration of these old obsolete methods and has given a full description of the modern and more accurate therapeutic measures leading to certain cure. The first edition of Luy's *Traité de la Blennorrhagie* appeared in 1912. Since then it has been translated into Spanish, Russian and English.

The book contains twelve chapters. The first is of historical interest and presents the development of our knowledge of the etiology and therapy of the disease. The following chapters deal with the gonococcus in its biological, staining, cultural and clinical aspects, referring especially to its dangers and the social and legal questions relative to gonorrhea. A chapter is devoted to the non-gonorrheal urethritides. The anatomy of the urethra and its appendages and the pathology of gonorrhea are specially considered. The clinical picture of the disease, including the symptomatology, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease, is given careful, accurate and complete attention. Urethroscopy as an essential to proper diagnosis and treatment in selected cases is naturally accorded a most important and valuable chapter by one of its recognized masters. The numerous complications of the disease are fully described and a special chapter is devoted to gonorrhea in women and children. The last two chapters, which are most important, give a full description of the treatment of acute and chronic gonorrhea. Emphasis is bestowed upon those therapeutic measures that have withstood the test of time and if properly applied lead to certain cure.

In the group of complications the critic notes the absence of mention of gonorrheal roseola, a rare but certain occurrence. The reviewer observes the author's chief reliance on endo-urethral cauteri-

zation with the galvanic cautery for the treatment of all papillomatous proliferations of the urethra and feels it his duty to direct attention to the superiority of electrocoagulation or fulguration for the destruction of these excrescences.

The book is well illustrated, largely with original figures, a noteworthy feature in this new edition being the omission of a number of figures showing instruments of German manufacture. Two new illustrations have been added. Other changes noted are the strong advocacy of colloidal preparations, especially colloidal silver. The translator and editor has added a few remarks on electrical treatment and vaccines and has made other revisions in the text where it was thought to be advisable. The publishers are to be commended upon the excellence of type, freedom from typographical errors and admirable character of the illustrations.

B. A. T.